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REMARKS

Claims 1-43 were previously pending in this application with claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 8, 10 and 13 having been withdrawn from consideration. Claims 1, 3-10, 13, 15, 29-36, 41 and 42 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 2, 12 and 18 have been amended. New dependent claims 44-144 have been added. As a result, claims 2, 11, 12, 14, 16-28, 37-40 and 43-144 are pending for examination, with claims 2, 11, 12 and 18 being independent claims. The claim amendments and new claims are supported in the specification. No new matter has been added.

Priority Claim

Applicant notes that this application includes priority claims under 35 U.S.C. §119(e) and 35 U.S.C. §120.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant acknowledges the finding in the Office Action that claims 11 and 37-40 are allowed and claims 15, 18-19 and 42 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant is amending claim 2 to include the recitation of claim 15 to put claim 2 in allowable condition. Applicant has also amended claim 18 to be in independent form by including all of the limitations of claim 2 to put this claim in allowable condition. Applicant has also amended independent claim 12 to include the limitation of dependent claim 42 to put claim 12 in allowable condition.

Accordingly, independent claims 2, 11, 12 and 18 are in condition for allowance. The remaining claims depend from one of these allowable independent claims. Therefore, Applicant submits that the application should be in condition for allowance, as described further below.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 3,856,442

Claims 2, 14, 16-17 and 20-28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 3,856,442 (Gallagher).

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Without acceding to the correctness of this rejection, Applicant has amended independent claim 2, as noted above, to include the recitation of dependent claim 18 which does not stand rejected on this ground. Therefore, amended independent claim 2 is patentable over Gallagher. Claims 14, 16-17 and 20-28 depend from claim 2 and are also patentable over Gallagher for at least this reason. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the claim rejections over Gallagher.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,005,013

Claims 4, 6, 9, 12, 29-36, 41 and 43 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,005,013 (Suh).

Without acceding to the correctness of this rejection, Applicant has cancelled a number of claims and amended a number of claims. Claims 4, 6, 9 and 29-36 have been cancelled. Independent claim 12 has been amended to include the recitation of dependent claim 42 which does not stand rejected on this ground. Therefore, the amended independent claim 12 is patentable over Suh. Claims 41 and 43 depend from independent claim 12 and are also over Suh for at least this reason. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the claim rejections over Suh.

New Claims

Claims 44-144 have been added in this amendment. All of these new claims depend from one of independent claims 2, 11, 12 and 18, which are patentable for reasons discussed above. Therefore, new claims 44-144 are also patentable for at least these reasons.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, this application should now be in condition for allowance. A notice to this effect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes, after this amendment, that the application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the Applicant's attorney at the telephone number listed below.

If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicant hereby requests any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 23/2825.

Respectfully submitted,
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